

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 61

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION urging Tennessee's Congressional delegation to take all necessary measures to refocus the deployment of the Tennessee National Guard toward fighting illegal immigration and providing homeland security support.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety, concerns, and lives to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave this state its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, thousands of members of the Tennessee National Guard and Army and Air Force Reservists from Tennessee have bravely and honorably served in Iraq and Afghanistan and deserve the support of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, however, the Tennessee National Guard and Reserves, their personnel and their families, are under enormous strain from multiple, extended deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. strategy in Iraq must not compromise the ability of the United States to address other vital national security priorities, such as illegal immigration and providing support for homeland security; and

WHEREAS, the system to organize, train, and equip the National Guard and Reserve was designed for a different era; the system was intended to mobilize these soldiers and then send them home quickly; it was not designed to maintain Guardsmen and Reservists on duty for extended lengths of time in overseas combat zones; and

WHEREAS, indeed, the majority of nondeployed Army and Marine Corps units are no longer combat ready due to a lack of equipment and insufficient time to train; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee National Guard and Reserves are better trained to fight illegal immigration and to provide support for homeland security, and in those capacities they would be of great benefit to our nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge Tennessee's Congressional delegation to take all necessary measures to refocus the deployment of the Tennessee National Guard and Army and Air Force Reservists toward fighting illegal immigration and providing homeland security support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared and sent to each member of the Tennessee Congressional Delegation.